2014 - 2015 Secure Rural Schools
Public Law 110-343
Title II Project Submission Form
USDA Forest Service

Name of Resource Advisory Committee: Prince William Sound
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):
Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2016-2017

2. Project Name: Invasive Weeds Control in Whittier	**3a. State:** Alaska **3b. County(s):**
4. Project Submitted By: Copper River Watershed Project	**5. Date:** June 15, 2016
6. Contact Phone Number: 907-424-3334	**7. Contact E-mail:** danielle@copperriver.org

8. Project Location:	
a. National Forest(s): Chugach	b. Forest Service District: Glacier
c. Location (Township-Range-Section): T8N, R4E, Sections 15, 22, 23, 24	

9. Project Goals and Objectives:
The goal of this two-year project is to control or eradicate several invasive plant species in and around the City of Whittier with an aim to prevent spread of these species to areas that are currently not infested, including much of remote Prince William Sound. Our primary target is reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), in addition to white sweetclover (*Melilotus alba*), ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), bird vetch (*Vicia cracca*), and fall dandelion (*Leontodon autumnalis*).

10. Project Description:
a. Brief: (*in one sentence*) The Copper River Watershed Project intends to continue manual treatment of several priority infestations of invasive plants in and around the City of Whittier for two growing seasons.

b. Detailed:
The Copper River Watershed Project began its invasive plant program in 2011 in Cordova in coordination with the US Forest Service. We aim to continue this coordinated effort by broadening our program and assisting with an ongoing invasive weeds project in Whittier.

Surveys conducted in 2011 recorded several populations of invasive plants in and around the City of Whittier. Control and monitoring efforts were made by the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) through 2014 using manual techniques, however well-established seed banks have resulted in regular regrowth of these populations. A limited amount of control and surveying was completed in 2015 by AACD but did not address our primary target species, reed canarygrass. We are proposing to pick up the work that AACD has discontinued.

Using a popular manual control mechanism, a large section of reed canarygrass was covered with light-excluding tarps adjacent to the Whittier tunnel. These tarps have been in place for several growing seasons and are now ready to be removed. After removing the tarps we will revegetate the site with native plant seed provided by the Alaska Plant Materials Center.

As time allows, we will also control infestations of white sweetclover, ox-eye daisy, bird vetch, and fall dandelion:

- White sweet clover (*Melilotus alba*) is a highly invasive plant species found scattered around both the City of Whittier and Bear Valley sides of the tunnel. This plant has the ability to spread, persist, and degrade native ecosystems. Seeds from this plant can remain viable in the soil for up to 80 years. The sites described above are the only known infestations of white sweetclover in the Prince William Sound zone, so eradication is a high priority before it spreads to neighboring National Forest Lands. All known populations of this species were pulled in Whittier in 2012, however, additional populations were found in 2013 due to the long viability of seed. Regular monitoring and spot pulling must continue for several years to achieve eradication.
- Ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) is well established near the Welcome to Whittier sign and at several locations scattered throughout Whittier.
- Bird vetch (*Viccia cracca*) is known from several small populations along the bike path and near the Welcome to Whittier sign.
- Reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundunacea*) is found on both sides of the tunnel and at the outhouse near the Welcome to Whittier sign.
- Fall dandelion (*Leontodon autumnalis*) is known from the pedestrian tunnel.

Potential control of recently planted Rugosa rose (*Rosa rugosa*), a highly ranked species especially harmful in coastal areas, will be done if feasible.

Where infestations are small, most of these species respond well to manual control. Materials needed for control include contractor bags, gloves, orange safety vests, and hand trowels. Monitoring of treated areas to determine efficacy will be completed by CRWP and US Forest Service staff in the year following the tarp removal and manual control. Please see below for details of monitoring plan.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? ☒ Yes ☐ No **Land Status:** State and City lands
If Yes, specify: AK DOT&PF rights-of-way, City of Whittier lands.

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)
☐ Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.
☒ Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.
☒ Restores and improves land health.
☐ Restores water quality

13. Project Type a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)	
☐ Road Maintenance	☐ Trail Maintenance
☐ Road Decommission/Obliteration	☐ Trail Obliteration
☐ Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
☒ Soil Productivity Improvement	☐ Forest Health Improvement
☐ Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	☐ Wildlife Habitat Restoration
☐ Fish Habitat Restoration	☒ Control of Noxious Weeds
☒ Reestablish Native Species	☐ Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
☐ Implement CWPP Project	☐ Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Control of Noxious Weeds	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Acres of native species reestablished: 10
Acres of noxious weeds controlled: 5
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks:
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: June 2017	**16. Estimated Project Completion Date:** August 2018

17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.
The Copper River Watershed Project will coordinate with the US Forest Service Glacier Ranger District, City of Whittier, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, and volunteers from the communities of Whittier and Girdwood.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

The control and elimination of invasive plant species promotes and restores native vegetation and enhances native plant diversity. Removal of invasive plants also prevents introduction and further spread into nearby pristine habitat, such as Prince William Sound and Portage Valley. The potential spread of invasive plants to riparian zones and other aquatic sites may degrade overall watershed health. Control of small populations of invasive plants ultimately reduces the cost of large scale treatments if populations are left to spread, and also increases the potential for eradication.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?
Whittier is visited frequently during the summer season as a gateway to remote and pristine locations in Prince William Sound. Controlling invasive plant infestations will likely limit or prevent the spread of invasive plants to federal lands, thus protecting the native plant diversity and overall ecosystem health. Costs of invasive plant control in remote sites of Prince William Sound would be significantly greater than in coastal towns such as Whittier. Rapid response to invasive plants and subsequent prevention of spread is critical to successful control and eradication.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
☐ Contract	☒ Federal Workforce
☐ County Workforce	☒ Volunteers
☐ Grant	☒ Agreement
☐ Americorps	☐ YCC/CCC Crews
☐ Job Corps	☐ Stewardship Contract
☐ Merchantable Timber Pilot	☐ Other (specify):

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Timber? ☐ Yes ☒ No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: $9,300
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? ☒ Yes ☐ No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding: Previously funded RAC proposals for Whittier invasive weeds control received by the US Forest Service.

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.

Baseline data from 2013 have been collected by the US Forest Service Ecology staff in Girdwood. The entire area has been surveyed and all priority invasive plant infestations have been mapped. Copper River Watershed Project staff will continue to monitor these sites during and after treatment. All treated areas will be revisited within the same field season and again the following year to determine treatment efficacy. Pre-treatment data will be compared to post-treatment data, including infestation area and percent cover. All data will be recorded and submitted to the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse (a statewide invasive plant database), as well as added to the US Forest Service NRIS corporate database.

b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring: Copper River Watershed Project and US Forest Service

c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k): The cost of monitoring is included in salaries requested below.

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

☒ Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.

☐ Other, please explain:

Project Recommended By:	**Project Approved By:**
/s/ (INSERT Signature)	***/s/ (INSERT Signature)***
Chairperson	**Forest Supervisor**
Resource Advisory Committee	National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	*Column A* **Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution**	*Column B* **Requested Title II Contribution**	*Column C* **Other Contributions**	*Column D* **Total Available Funds**
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	$1,000			$1,000
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering				
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost				
i. Salaries		$5,664		$5,664
j. Materials & Supplies		$475		$475
k. Monitoring				
l. Other 1. Travel 2, Partner Indirect Cost		 $1,329 $1,832		 $1,329 $1,832
m. Project Sub-Total	$1,000	$9,300		$10,300
n. FS Indirect Costs				
Total Cost Estimate	$1,000	$9,300		$10,300

NOTES:

a. Pre-NEPA Costs

g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.

i. Cost of implementing project

l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.

n. Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.